

REMARKS

Applicant's counsel thanks the Examiner for the very careful and thorough examination given the application. Applicant's counsel also thanks the Examiner for the courteous telephone interview conducted on January 10, 2005 between applicant and the Examiner. During that telephone interview the main claims were discussed along with the applied Owens '953 reference. During the interview it was pointed out that the Owens '953 reference teaches a pair of extending post assemblies 26, 26'. Each post 26 comprises a tubular sleeve 28 and a stud 32 telescopically received in sleeve 28. Each stud 32 and sleeve 28 has a pair of spaced transverse holes and a locking pin 34 which enables the height of the stud 32 to be adjusted. However, since each stud has only two adjusting holes, the stud is not infinitely adjustable, but rather is adjustable only at the discreet locations where the holes are located. As referenced in the Examiner's Interview Summary, the Owens '953 patent discloses a device wherein the stud 32 is not infinitely adjustable but must be held at specific predetermined locations. As was pointed out during the interview, the main claim 1 of the present application requires that the guide rod be infinitely adjustable. Since the Owens '953 reference teaches a guide rod which is not infinitely adjustable, i.e., is adjustable only at specific predetermined locations, the presence of the infinitely adjustable guide rod in the present main claim makes the claim patentable over the applied art. Accordingly, the claims with the infinitely adjustable guide rod now define over the applied art and accordingly are in condition for allowance.

Claim 4 has been restated in independent form and includes the infinitely adjustable guide rod limitation and accordingly is in condition for allowance. Claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form and includes the infinitely adjustable guide rod limitation and has also been amended to more clearly define the recited invention. Claims 8, 10 and 12 have also been rewritten in independent form and include the infinitely adjustable guide rod limitation and are also in condition for allowance. Claim 1

has been revised to provide that the guide rod is coupled to the clamping mechanism by a structure including an element which bears nonuniformly against a side of the guide rod; for example, in Fig. 2 a set screw such as set screw 127 bears nonuniformly against a side of the guide rod 95; a threaded nut bears uniformly against the side of a threaded rod.

Claim 27 has been amended to more clearly define the invention; claim 27 as now presented clearly defines over the Owens '953 reference because Owens does not have a second aperture that the guide rod can be moved to in order to change a sharpening angle of the apparatus. Accordingly, claim 27 as now presented defines over the applied art and is accordingly in condition for allowance. All the dependent claims are allowable as depending from an allowable base claim. Claims 13-20 were previously indicated as allowable.

Since the claims as now presented define over the applied art, it is believed that they are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

If any further fees are required by this communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 35457.

Respectfully submitted,

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